

Approved For Release 2000/05/16 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0019008

## INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/USSR

DATE DISTR. 27 October 1948

SUBJECT The Russian Voientorg and Its Activities in  
Praha

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE 25X1A

CIA LIBRARY

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE  
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO. 1945-1947

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. Voientorg 135 was a Russian military buying commission which started operating (and operated more or less under cover) in August 1945 at Milovice in Bohemia under Captain Lisansky and Ing. Bogolub Rundo (who wore a military uniform without distinction of rank). At the beginning, the Voientorg was faced with difficulties, as people were reluctant to sell for the old money (prior to the currency reform in Czechoslovakia). Originally, the commission had three trucks and one personal car at its disposal. In September 1945, however, the situation improved: Lisansky and Rundo moved to Praha and rented an apartment in the Opera Hotel, across the street from the Denis Railroad Station, and a warehouse in Dejvice in the neighborhood of the new Technological Institute (which is a part of the Praha Institute of Technology). Rundo (and several other Russians) lived in the dormitory of the Institute and was registered as a student.
2. As the agenda of the Voientorg grew it was necessary to hire more people, warehouses, and cars. After the currency reform a large warehouse on Rohansky Ostrov (Island) in Prague was rented; in addition to this, warehouses of large firms, such as Schenker, Mezidopra, and others, were used, especially when such goods were being stored about which it was not supposed to be known that they were destined for Russia. At this time, the Russians had no bank accounts but, according to the need, they received money from Mödling (Austria) about twice a week. A great change occurred when Marshal Radov arrived in Praha to discuss the date of departure of the Red Army from Czechoslovakia. Since the Soviet Army left before the originally agreed date, the Czechoslovak Government paid the Russian Army 800 million crowns in the new currency, for which amount the Russians could buy in Czechoslovakia anything they needed for the Army. After further discussions an additional amount of 400 million crowns was put at the disposal of the Russians. They were authorized to spend this money for goods bought at the national establishments of Bata and Kotva in Zlin, Moravia. The discussions were highly confidential and only a few persons were present. Among them were, on the Russian side, Marshal Radov, Ing. Bogolub Rundo, and Ing. Barakovsky. All the negotiations were conducted by Rundo and Barakovsky. The Czechs were represented by Gottwald, Nosek, and Slansky. The discussions lasted three days. After the currency reform, the Russians were in an extremely favorable position as they had (since the day the reform was effected) a large amount of money at their disposal. From then on they started to buy systematically. Every Monday and Thursday a new list of items was brought to Praha from Mödling by 3 Russian officers. The money was deposited in the Moravska Banka on Václavské Náměstí, in the Zivnobanka at Prikopy (Street), and in a commercial bank, Na Zatoce.

CLASSIFICATION WARNING NOTICE: THIS DISTRIBUTION LISTING MUST BE

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXCISED BEFORE PUBLIC RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT,
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Approved For Release 2000/05/16 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001900840995-8

CONFIDENTIAL

Document No. 100-100000-100000  
 NO CHANGE in Class. ☐  
 DECLASSIFIED ☐  
 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
 DDA Recd. 4 Apr 77  
 Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

~~SECRET~~ **CONFIDENTIAL** 25X1A  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

3. Until the above mentioned agreement was reached the Russians were buying mostly fine leather goods, such as cigarette cases, compacts etc., from the firms of Havrda in Nove Mesto Smrkem and Vaclav Podlesny in Praha, Lublanska (Street). After the currency reform their interest shifted primarily to UNRRA goods and goods from Western Germany. The following list includes some of the items delivered to the Vojentorg:

300,000 meters of clothing material (UNRRA)  
600,000 cakes of toilet soap (UNRRA)  
800,000 meters of nylon (UNRRA)  
40,000 kg of laundry soap (UNRRA)  
1,000,000 pos. of preservatives (UNRRA)  
150 tractors (UNRRA)  
40 wagons of canned food (UNRRA)  
Medical supplies worth 25,000,000 Kcs, etc.

4. The goods were bought from the following firms:

- a. Kotva, National Establishment, Zlin, Moravia.
- b. Ibas, Import - Export, Praha, Revoluční trida, Vltava Palace.
- c. Jihoslovanske Nakupni Društvo (Jugoslav Buying Cooperative), Representative Agents: Josef Skaba, Praha XIII, Krallicka 5.
- d. Billa Labut (White Swan), Praha, Na Porici.
- e. Jan Sild, Praha II, (trida) Jana Opletala.
- f. The Ministry of Food.
- g. Cerna Ruz (Black Rose), Nachtigalova, Praha, (soap).
- h. Magura, Zilina, Slovakia (soap).

5. The transactions (showing samples of goods, bargaining, and paying of bills) never took place in the Vojentorg offices. All business was transacted exclusively in cafes and in private apartments. The bills never carried the name of the purchaser.

6. During the summer months, the leading members of the organization moved to Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad). Until November 1947, Rundo had been the top man of the Vojentorg; as of that date he was transferred to Bor near Ceska Lipa where he was to "buy glass". However, he seldom could be reached at Bor; his headquarters at that time was probably located at Jachymov.

- 25X1X 7. There were approximately 15 other Russians working for the Vojentorg. These were under Glickin (residing at Praha XII, Belgicka Street, [redacted])  
25X1X [redacted] (residing at Praha VII, Strojnicka Street, [redacted])  
[redacted] only two of those he knew could not be bribed: Rundo and Barakovsky.

8. At a later date, the Vojentorg rented two floors (4th and 5th) in a house (called "E1" house) at Praha, Holesovice, where entry was greatly restricted.
9. In Bratislava there was a branch office of the Vojentorg (located in the Carlton Hotel) which, however, was not under the jurisdiction of Praha (Glickin). The Bratislava office was headed by a Colonel named Kolijev who collaborated directly with Vienna.
10. Vojentorg goods were shipped out of Czechoslovakia mainly from Rohanaky Ostrov in Praha. A special freight train of about 20 cars was dispatched from here approximately every two weeks. A train guard team sent directly from Mědling accompanied the train. The trains were invariably dispatched from Praha during the night.
11. The Vojentorg had to keep books and accounts of its purchases, but the firms delivering goods were not allowed to specify the name of the purchaser in their bills. For this reason, some Praha business firms were reluctant to submit bills with their letterheads. Furthermore, the firms could not enter these transactions in their own books and, consequently, some of them refused to do business with the Vojentorg. Those firms that were willing to do business with the Vojentorg were given a certain compensation.

~~SECRET~~ **CONFIDENTIAL**

~~SECRET~~  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A

Later the Russians had some blanks of bills printed with letterheads of non-existing firms (mostly from Moravska Ostrava and Ceske Budejovice) and used these blanks for the purpose of keeping their own books "straight".

12. Approximately every two months a group of officers came from Hodling to check whether the program was being fulfilled. Every 14 days a member of the Wojentorg, usually Rundo, went to Hodling to deliver the bills and pick up supplemental lists of items to be purchased.

25X1X

[REDACTED]

13. [REDACTED] the Soviet Embassy, where entry was greatly restricted, through the [REDACTED]. An identity card from the [REDACTED] was not sufficient. In urgent cases, he could gain admittance through the Press Attache of the Consulate (who called the Embassy on the phone).

25X1X

#### 14. Personalities

- a. Ing. Borolub Rundo: About 35 years of age, 173 cm, black hair (slightly grey), dark eyes, moustache; very elegant; speaks Czech, French, Russian, German, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, some English and Italian.
- b. Ing. Barakovsky: 45 years old, 185 cm, blond, wavy hair, blue eyes; does not know how to drive; speaks Czech, Russian, French, German, Serbo-Croatian, Italian, some English and Spanish.
- c. Captain Lisansky: 48, 165 cm, bald-headed, fattish, always wearing uniform; speaks German, Czech, Russian, and English.
- d. Glickin: 55, 158 cm, grayish-chestnut hair, brown eyes; does not wear a uniform now; speaks Russian, German, Czech, and French.
- e. Vlaskov: 50, 170 cm, brown hair, slender; does not drive a car and does not wear a uniform; speaks Russian, German, and Czech.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~